

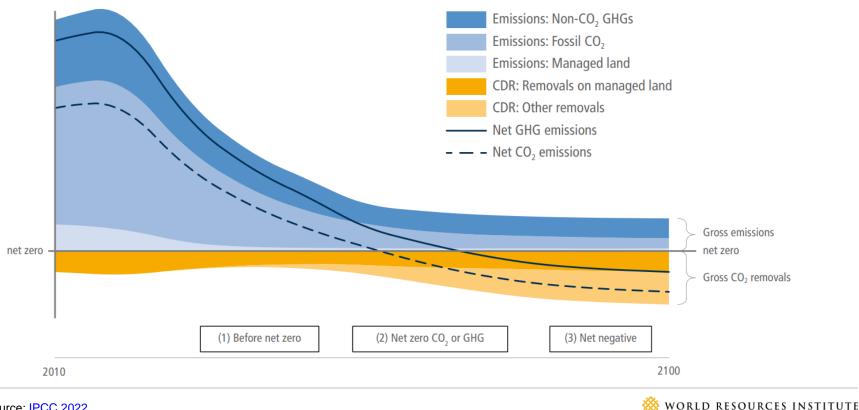
OCEAN CARBON DIOXIDE REMOVAL

Introduction and Landscape

KATIE LEBLING, WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE | APRIL 16, 2024

WHY WE NEED CARBON DIOXIDE REMOVAL

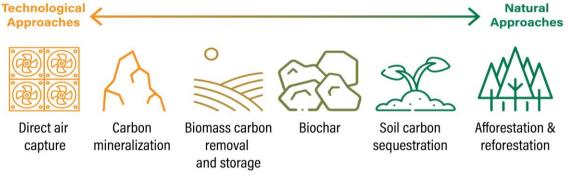
Greenhouse gas emissions (stylised pathway)



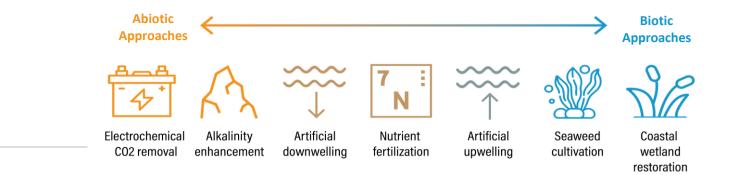
Source: IPCC 2022

CARBON REMOVAL INCLUDES MANY THINGS

Carbon removal approaches on land



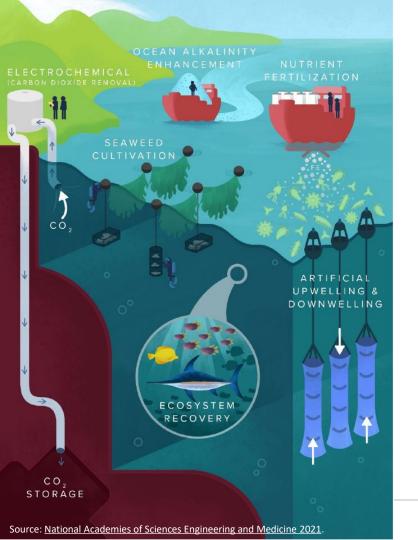
Carbon removal approaches in the ocean



WHY OCEAN CDR?

- Vast area, 70% of globe
- Significant demonstrated capacity to store carbon
- Can diversify portfolio of carbon removal approaches
- Reduces pressure on landbased resources





WHAT ARE OCEAN CDR APPROACHES?

- Biotic approaches:
 - Coastal wetland restoration
 - Seaweed cultivation
 - Ocean fertilization
 - Artificial upwelling
- Abiotic approaches:
 - Ocean alkalinity enhancement
 - Electrochemical techniques
 - Artificial downwelling

SEAWEED CULTIVATION



- What: Cultivation of seaweed then purposeful sinking to the deep ocean for sequestration
- **Uncertainties**: Optimal cultivation and harvesting methods, MRV, permanence
- Development efforts: Running Tide, Seafields, Seaweed Generation, ARPRA-E MARINER

OCEAN ALKALINITY ENHANCEMENT



- What: Addition of ground alkaline materials to surface waters that react with dissolved CO₂ lock it away
- Uncertainties: Environmental impacts in the ocean and from feedstock extraction; MRV
- **Development efforts**: Vesta, Carbon to Sea Initiative, PNNL, PMEL



COMPLEXITIES OF OCEAN CDR

- Small knowledge base
- Transboundary nature of the ocean
- Challenges with measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV)
- Lack of fit-for-purpose governance
 framework
- Importance of public perception and social license





POTENTIAL OF OCEAN CDR

With more attention and investment, ocean CDR could:

- Potentially provide multi-gigaton scale removal
- Help maintain the U.S. position as a leader in technology development and innovation
- For some approaches, provide other, non-carbon, benefits like reducing ocean acidification
- Provide jobs





THANK YOU!